

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of all claims remaining of record as presently amended are respectfully requested. Claims 1-14 are currently under consideration in the application.

By this amendment, claims 1, 4, 5 and 8-14 are amended above so as to give greater emphasis to some of the novel and patentable features set forth in these claims.

The rejection of claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by the “Chocobo World – Final Fantasy 8” online strategy guide publication (allegedly published online on September 15, 2000) is respectfully traversed for at least the reasons set forth below.

The Chocobo World reference fails to teach or remotely suggest the features as set forth in any of Applicants’ pending claims and, in particular, Applicants’ independent claims 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14, as presently amended. Applicants’ claimed invention is patentably distinct from the features and operation of the Chocobo World game as disclosed in the cited online strategy guide, for at least the following reasons:

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited online strategy guide reference fails to teach or suggest Applicants’ claimed feature of determining whether or not a predetermined gameplay condition is accomplished during the progress of a game being played and autonomously writing, at a time when it is determined that the predetermined condition is accomplished, information relating to that predetermined condition to *both* a backup data storing area associated with the game currently being played and to a backup data storing area of another game that is not currently being played, in the manner as set forth in applicants’ independent claims.

Accordingly, for at least the above stated reason, Applicants respectfully contend that the cited online strategy guide does not anticipate claims 1-14 at least because it does not disclose every

element as set forth in those claims. See Lemar Marine, Inc. v. Barient, Inc., 3 U.S.P.Q. 2d. 1776 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Applicants also respectfully submit that The Chocobo World reference fails to teach or remotely suggest the features as set forth in any of Applicants' claims as presently amended because, in contrast to Applicants' implementation for saving game backup data, in the Chocobo World reference a determination to transfer game data from one game to another is not performed autonomously by the game program being played, nor is that determination based upon whether or not a particular predetermined gameplay condition is satisfied during the course of gameplay progression, in the manner as set forth in Applicant's independent claims. In addition, it is apparent from the cited online strategy guide reference that although item inventory information may be manually transferred from the Chocobo World game to the FF8 game, that information is clearly not written into *both* a backup data storage area for the Chocobo World game and a backup storage area for the FF8 game autonomously at a time that the particular predetermined condition is determined as being accomplished during gameplay by the game being played, in the manner as set forth in Applicant's independent claims.

The rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the Chocobo World Strategy Guide reference is also traversed. At least one patentably distinct feature set forth in applicants' claim 13 which is not disclosed or suggested by the cited online strategy guide is a computer program embodied on a storage medium which comprises program instruction means for *autonomously writing*, upon determining that the predetermined condition is accomplished during gameplay of said one game, *information relating to the predetermined condition* into *both* a backup data storing area associated with a game in which said predetermined condition is accomplished *and into a backup data storing area associated with at*

least one other game program that is also stored on said storage medium. These patently distinct features are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited Chocobo World online strategy guide or by any other prior art reference of record.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully contend that at least Applicants' independent claims 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14 are patentably distinct and not obvious over the Chocobo World reference, considered either alone or in combination with any of the prior art of record. Moreover, it is submitted that dependent claims 2-7 and 12 are patentably distinct over the teachings of the Chocobo World reference for at least the same reasons as set forth above with respect to Applicants' independent claims.

In view of Applicant's foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the application is presently in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited. If any small matter remains outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below or on the following page.

Respectfully submitted,

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